

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CPR-02 SY-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8613

INFO " AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0114

USUN NEW YORK 0653

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EO 11652/ NA

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, TW

SUBJ: KONSIN SEHAH APPOINTEDCONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK

1. HSIA KUNG- CH' UAN (115/0501/2938), WHO PREFERS THE
NAME KONSIN C. SEHAH, HAS BEEN APPOINTED CONSUL GENERAL
IN NEW YORK,
SUCCEEDING YU KUO- PING, WHOSE FUTURE
ASSIGNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED.

2. A BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF HSIA FOLLOWS:/ GHSIA
WAS BORN IN CHEKIANG PROVINCE IN 1919, ENTERED THE AIR
FORCE IN 1937 AND EARNED THE REPUTATION OF BEING A " HOT"
PILOT IN WW II. HE RETIRED WITH AN EXCELLENT RECORD AND THE
RANK OF COLONEL IN 1960. HSIA EARNED A DEGREE IN
INTERNATIONAL LAW FROM GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON,
D. C. IN 1959, WHILE SERVING AS CHIEF OF THE AIR
DIVISION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT MISSION,
1956-60.

3. HSIA BEGAN HIS FOREGIN SERVICE CAREER IN 1960 WHEN
APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AMERICA AFFAIRS IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE THEN SERVED AS DIRECTOR
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OF PROTOCOL FROM 1964-68, WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR
TO NEW ZEALAND, WHERE HE
SERVED (REPORTEDLY VERY ABLY) UNTIL
THE BREAK IN RELATIONS IN DECEMBER, 1972.

4. HSIN' S INFLUENCE AND RAPID RISE NO DOUBT FACILITATED BY PAST HIGH- LEVEL ASSOCIATIONS AND BY FORTUNATE MARRIAGE. IN 1945-53, HSIA SERVED AS AIR AIDE- DE- CAMP TO PRESIDENT CHIANG, EVIDENTLY TO LATTER' S SATISFACTION. HSIA' S WIFE, THE FORMER HUANG HSIN- PING (MARIE SHAH) IS THE DAUGHTER OF FORMER VICE- PREMIER AND CURRENT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, HUANG SHAO- KU. SHE IS A LOVELY, CULTIVATED AND GRACIOUS LADY WHO IS WIDELY ADMIRER. BOTH SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH, ENJOY SOCIAL ACTIVITY AND HAVE VARIOUS RECREATIONAL INTERESTS, INCLUDING GOLF, TENNIS AND HORSEBACK RIDING.

5. HSIA HAS BEEN REGARDED BY SOME CHINESE AND AMERICANS AS BEING RATHER VAIN AND AMBITIOUS BUT NOT WITHOUT STRONG FAVORABLE QUALITIES. HE HAS AN ENGAGING, EXTROVERT PERSONALITY, IS A " JOINER" AND A GOOD MIXER. HE IS PRO- AMERICAN, AND HAS MANY AMERICAN FRIENDS. HE IS SUAVE AND SOCIALLY ADEPT, AND SHOULD BE QUITE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION- ALLY IN NEW YORK. HE TURNS SOME PEOPLE OFF SLIGHTLY BECAUSE OF A MILD TENDENCY TOWARD LOQUACITY AND EGO- CENTRICITY. ON THE WHOLE HE SHOULD MAKE A SUCCESSFUL AND POPULAR GRC REPRESENTATIVE IN THE KEY NEW YORK POST.

6. WELLINGTON MAY WISH TO COMMENT ADDITIONALLY.
MCCONAUGHY

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